

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended)

1 Apparatus for introducing a moldable thermoplastic material into an annular
2 mold cavity to mold an annular thermoplastic part that has no more than a single weld line
3 therein, said apparatus comprising:

4 an annular mold cavity having an annular opening thereinto;

5 a fixed pin axially aligned with the opening of the mold cavity and being
6 immovable during molding relative to the opening of the mold cavity;

7 a passage extending through said fixed pin for venting air from said mold
8 cavity:

9 an annular sleeve surrounding the fixed pin and being moveable with respect
10 to the fixed pin between a first position that is adjacent to the mold cavity and a second
11 position that is away from the mold cavity to define, with the fixed pin when in the second
12 position, an annular path for introducing moldable thermoplastic material into the annular
13 opening of the mold cavity; and

14 means for introducing moldable thermoplastic material into the annular path,
15 at a location upstream of the second position of the annular sleeve, in no more than a
16 single path.

2. (Original)

1 Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein:

2 said means for introducing comprises a passage that extends at an acute

3 angle with respect to a longitudinal central axis of said annulus mold cavity.

3-5 (Canceled)